

What YOU can do about yellow flag iris...

- Do not transplant or use yellow flag iris as an ornamental.
- Remove ornamental plantings and control escaped populations.
- This plant is poisonous to livestock, even when plant parts are dry. Avoid contact with cattle and other livestock.
- Report infestations and volunteer to help with plant removal efforts in your community.

Slow the spread of yellow flag iris in Oregon!

**Report suspect
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Invasive Noxious Weed
Control Program
503-986-4621 or call

1-866-INVADER



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532



Yellow flag iris
Iris pseudacorus
Aquatic Invader!



What is yellow flag iris?

Yellow flag iris is a perennial aquatic plant that forms dense stands in wetlands and along lake shores and rivers. It was introduced a century ago as an ornamental plant for its showy yellow blooms and has frequently escaped and spread into natural waterways in Oregon and across North America.



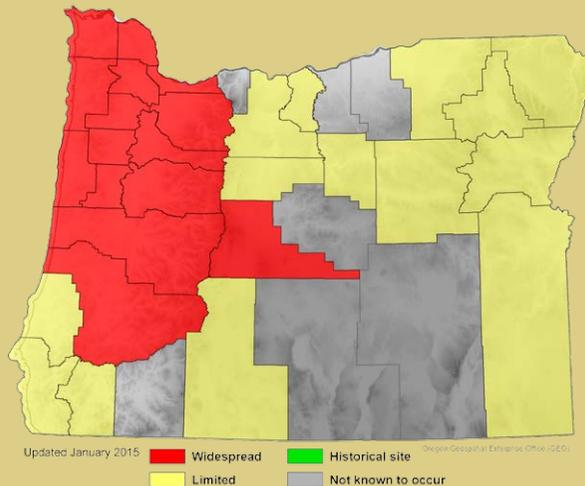
What does yellow flag iris do?

Yellow flag iris grows on the banks of ponds, ditches, lakes and rivers where it forms large dense stands and increases sedimentation. Infestations exclude native plants like cattails and yellow pond lily that provide food to waterfowl and other wildlife. Roots and rhizomes of yellow flag iris are poisonous to livestock.



How does yellow flag iris spread?

Gardeners have introduced and planted yellow flag iris as an ornamental for ponds. It can easily escape when ponds overflow. This perennial plant reproduces through vigorous, freeze-tolerant rhizomes which can break off and start new plants. Additionally, water currents carry floating seeds to new areas.



How can you identify yellow flag iris?

The showy, bright yellow flowers that give this plant its common name are easy to identify during the spring to early summer. Each flowering stalk produces many flowers which develop into three-angled fruit capsules about 4 inches long. Capsules contain many round, flattened brown seeds. Flat, deep, green leaves (3-4 feet long) arise in a fan from the base; each sword-like leaf has a raised midrib and is erect or slightly arching. Rhizomes are 1/2-1 1/2 inches in diameter with roots 3-12 inches long. When not in flower, yellow flag iris can be distinguished from cattails by its seed capsules or fan-shaped leaf arrangement.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: V. H. Morgan, Portland State University; L.J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
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